



ADOTTE **WILLY** **STORIES**

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INTRODUCTION

The Cadotte research has culminated in the dedication of the statue of the "Cadotte Fur Trader"; and its placement in our beautiful Riverview Park.

The search is not ended; it probably never will be. Time, man and nature have erased the positive location of the "log cabins" but the evidence indicates that the affinity of the Cadotte family to "Cadotte Falls" on the Yellow River, as early as 1787, is real and genuine.

The Cadotte fur traders have been adjudged: intelligent, important, distinctive, colorful, vibrant, illustrious, unassuming, energetic, enterprising, adventurous, fearless, humane, historic, trustworthy, persuasive, reasoning, charitable, befriending, sympathetic, powerful, sagacious, skillful, resourceful, courageous, arbitratative, influential, shrewd, mediating, understanding, just, and many more adjectives you will find in the stories about them. We do well to commemorate them.

As the stories of the family and their kinsfolk unfolded, it was my first impression that some day, some writer, with a flair for descriptive language, and a vivid imagination, would piece the remaining mysteries together and write a novel. And perhaps, some day, one will.

Across the span of over 300 years in the "Melting Pot" which is America, is united the blood of the French trader with the blood of a Chippewa chief; with the blood of a pilgrim; with the blood of a prominent Maryland family; with the blood of a president; with the blood of many, many more. There is the panoramic view of the fur trading era; of transitional periods in our history; of the vicissitudes of life.

As the assembly progressed further, it was my second impression that perhaps the plot and a kind of novel was already here, with only the truth in it. Every incident, every evidence, presents a picture, a life-like story in itself, which contributes to the whole; with thoughtful observations; with virtuous lessons; with comprehensive human interest; and the thread that weaves them all together is the name "Cadotte"; resulting in the Cadotte Family Stories.

As we reflect on the Bi-Centennial of our nation, may these stories serve to remind us that our heritage was fashioned by the acts of our forefather, in their day; that history is fashioned in the events of each and every day; and that whatever is passed on to posterity will be fashioned, in some way, by what we do, in our day. May it be in a way worthy of commemoration.

Thomas H. Tobola

CADOTT Chippewa County

Jean Baptiste Cadotte (or Cadeau) was the son of a famous French Canadian fur trader who settled on Madeline Island where he married a Chippewa Indian girl and established a fur trading post. Young Cadotte established a trading post at a falls on the Yellow River about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile downstream from the present village. For many years, it was known as Cadotte Falls. It is not known when the final letter was lost, but when the village was first settled by Robert Marriar in 1865, it was called Cadott and was platted under that name ten years later. Young Jean's brother, Michel, was educated in Montreal, Canada; and married Equayasayway, the daughter of White Crane, the village chief on the island. Michel Cadotte built the settlement at LaPointe.

(Taken from "Romance in Wisconsin Place Names.")

With appreciation
to
The State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Thomas H. Tobola

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Above all, I want to thank the Lord for granting me the will and the perseverance to assemble it and have it done.

T. H. T.

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